

In the Claims

[Please add the following claims:]

- 10. A near full duplex communication system, comprising:
- a) a first speech path having incoming analog voice information;
 - b) a second speech path having outgoing analog voice information;
 - c) an analog to digital converter circuit connected to either said speech path;
 - d) a microprocessor;
 - e) a memory device having a control algorithm, connected to said microprocessor; and
 - f) one or more programmable attenuators connected to said microprocessor and to said first speech path or to said second speech path;
- wherein said one or more attenuators control the level of a voice signal on either said speech path;
- wherein said microprocessor controls said one or more attenuators according to said control algorithm.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein said one or more attenuators comprise an operational amplifier.

12. The system of claim 10, further comprising a receive register which stores digitized voice information from said first speech path and provides same to said microprocessor, said receive register being connected to said analog to digital converter circuit and to said microprocessor.

13. The system of claim 10, further comprising a transmit register which stores digitized voice information from said second speech path and provides same to said microprocessor,

said transmit register being connected to said analog to digital converter circuit and to said microprocessor.

14. A portable handset communication device, comprising:

- a) a first signal path having incoming voice information;
- b) a second signal path having outgoing voice information;
- c) a microprocessor;
- d) a memory device having a control algorithm, connected to said microprocessor; and
- e) one or more programmable attenuators connected to said microprocessor and to said first signal path or to said second signal path;

wherein said one or more attenuators control the level of a voice signal on either signal path; and

wherein said microprocessor controls said one or more attenuators according to said control algorithm.

15. The device of claim 14, further comprising an analog to digital converter (ADC) circuit connected to either said signal path.

16. The device of claim 14, further comprising a receive register connected to said first signal path and to said microprocessor.

17. The device of claim 14, further comprising a transmit register connected to said second signal path and to said microprocessor.

18. The device of claim 15, wherein said voice information of said first signal path is digitized by said ADC circuit and is provided in digitized format to said microprocessor.

19. The device of claim 15, wherein said voice information of said second signal path is digitized by said ADC circuit and is provided in digitized format to said microprocessor.

20. A method of controlling an audio signal level in a portable communications device, comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a signal path having an audio information signal;
- b) providing a microprocessor connected to said signal path;
- c) providing a memory device connected to said microprocessor, wherein said memory device includes a control algorithm stored therein which contains noise threshold information associated with said audio information signal;
- d) monitoring said audio information signal to determine a peak signal level for said audio information signal;
- e) comparing said peak signal level to said stored noise threshold information; and
- f) adjusting the amplitude of said audio information signal when said amplitude is greater than said noise threshold information.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein said step of monitoring is accomplished by providing an audio register having information representing said peak signal level of said audio information signal.

22. The method of claim 20, wherein said microprocessor is controlled by said control algorithm to accomplish said steps of monitoring, comparing and adjusting.

23. The method of claim 20, wherein said amplitude of said audio information signal is adjusted by a programmable attenuator which is controlled by said microprocessor. --